



2015

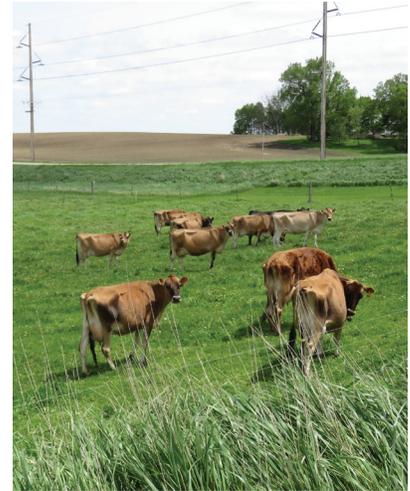
Milking 21 Jersey cows and farming 1,100 acres keeps this farmer very busy. This barn, built for Carl and Leila Johnson, was erected in 1934 of cottonwood lumber from trees lining the entrance to the farm.

After Carl's death at age 48 in 1951, his widow and their sons Lyle, age 11, and Harvey, age 13, continued the operation of the farm.

In 1961 the barn was remodeled and 11 stanchions and a milk room were added.

Lyle did the farming until he moved to Minnesota, at which time Harvey purchased the farm. The barn was then used for hogs and grain.

After Harvey died, the farm was purchased in 1999 by his daughter Kristi Wirtjes and her husband Greg.



Wirtjes' Jerseys

The barn was restored with steel siding, steel roof, and steel stanchions, and in 2005 milking resumed. They have sold milk to Organic Valley since 2007 and hope eventually to enlarge the dairy herd to 80 cows.



2013

Huacaya alpacas, indigenous to South America, can be seen grazing all year at Triple Tree Farm along Highway 18 west of Sheldon.

This multi-colored barn was built in 1947 by Herman Dieterman and his son Jason. After Herman's death, his wife Follena remained on the farm until the late 1980s.

Since 2006 it has been owned by Myron and Jackie Bechler, who now have 60 of these dainty multi-colored

alpacas as well as miniature goats. Bales of hay are stored in the loft.

Since alpacas are indigenous to high South American altitudes, they adapt well to Iowa winters and spend much of their time outdoors.

Yarn made from the fiber is made into scarves, gloves, and other items. All are labeled as to the individual alpaca it came from and are available for sale.



Mia being sheared